

In the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following paragraph:

"[0024] Suitably welded to container 14 are a plurality of impact rings, namely a bottom ring 26, a middle ring 28 and upper ring 30. Rings 26, 28 and 30 are preferably rounded octagonal shaped as shown best by upper ring 30 in figure 4. As shown in figures 1 and 2, rings 26, 28 and 30 each extend laterally beyond container 14 to provide impact protection for container 14 (and more importantly for ammunition 12). As particularly shown in figure 2, bottom ring 26 extends longitudinally to the longitudinal end of container [[12]] 14 formed by end plate 32 welded thereat. Rings 26, 28, and 30 are formed from steel and are designed to absorb any impact during accidental drops of packaging system 10 or the like and thus to protect ammunition 12 from being damaged. The octagonal shape of rings 26, 28 and 30 increases the surface area of impact, and thus serves to reduce the overall shock of an impact. Obviously, bottom ring 26 is the more likely to be impacted during an accidental drop, as it protects packaging system 10 both laterally (together with rings 28 and 30) as well as longitudinally at closed bottom end 20."

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following paragraph:

"[0025] Cap 16 closes and seals the open top end 18 of container 14, and in this preferred embodiment cap 16 includes a cylindrical section 34. Cylindrical section 34 matches container 14, and cylindrical section 34 includes an open bottom end 36 and a closed top end 38. Top end 38 is closed by an end plate 40 welded thereat. Located at closed top end 38 is a cap top ring 42. Top ring 42 also serves as an impact ring just like

bottom ring [[42]] 26, and thus top ring 42 is essentially identical to bottom ring [[28]] 26 but reversed in longitudinal direction to extend longitudinally to the longitudinal end of cap 16 formed by end plate 40. Located interiorly of end plate 42 is an end liner 44 which prevents the tail end of ammunition 12 from contacting end plate [[42]] 40 directly."

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following paragraph:

"[0027] In order to lock cap 16 onto container 14, a locking mechanism 60 is used. Locking mechanism 60 is preferably a toggle latch 62 or the like well known in the art, which is further preferably an over-center type so that once latch 62 is closed latch 62 is biased to stay in the closed position. Toggle latch 62 is substantially contained within the profile of upper ring 30 as shown in figure 4 so that stacking of a plurality of adjacent packaging systems 10 can be easily effected (as discussed in detail subsequently). While not shown in detail due to the notoriously old nature of such toggle latches, it will be appreciated that latch 62 includes a lever portion having a movable V (or U) shaped claw, which [[is]] lever portion is attached to upper ring 30, and a hook is provided on cylindrical section 34 of cap 16 which the claw engages or hooks on."

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph:

"[0030] Packaging system 10 also includes a stacking mechanism 80 so that a plurality of packaging systems 10 can be securely or stably stacked adjacent one another (side-by-side) in a suitably sized pallet or the like, and this stability exists during the palletization process as well and makes transport easier. Thus, another reason that impact rings 26, 28, 30 and 42 are identically octagonal shaped and symmetrically positioned is to allow

and to promote such a stacking ability of systems 10. In addition, to better secure each system 10 in the stacked position, stacking mechanism 80 includes a first top member 82. It will be appreciated that in figure 5 exemplary portions of two top rings 42A and 42B of two adjacent packaging systems 10 are shown to illustrate stacking mechanism 80. Preferably, first top member 82 includes a male segment extending laterally away from top ring 42A, and in this preferred embodiment first top member 82 is a simple polyethylene plug 84 or the like. Conveniently, plug 84 is shaped to be resiliently positioned and then trapped in an aperture [[86]] provided in top ring 42A as shown in figure 5. Provided 180° around from first top member 82 is a second top member 88, which in figure 5 is depicted on an adjacent top ring 42B. Preferably, second top member 88 includes a female segment extending laterally towards top ring 42B for receipt of the male segment of top ring 42A, and in this preferred embodiment second top member [[82]] 88 is a simple lateral hole 90 in top ring 42B sized to receive a portion of plug 84 extending from top ring 42A as shown."